

Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Meeting Minutes ~ February 10, 2011

Present: Natasha Jenkins, Janet Mirsky, Beatrice Rodgers, Barbara Simon, Theresa Bugg, Keith Chernikoff, Brenda Cooley, Rev. Daniel Hamlin, Anna Socrates David Whaples and Ken Blue

Excused: Elizabeth Hammett, Rosemary Pezzuto, David Lange

City Council: Ms. Leta Mach, Liaison

Board of Ed.: Ms. Peggy Higgins, Liaison (not present)

Staff: Joe McNeal, Liaison

Guests: Shane Wisdom, Gale Martineau, John Henry Jones

The meeting of the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Bea Rodgers in the City Council Chambers at 25 Crescent Road.

All in attendance introduced themselves to the other members of the Task Force.

Anna Socrates announced she will no longer be able to act as a member of the GMSTF and introduced Shane Wisdom as the new member representing the Arts Advisory Board.

The January meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Keith Chernikoff expressed concern that there were conference calls and meetings held related to GMSTF business that some members of the GMSTF were not aware of. There was a motion to advise all members of the GMSTF of dates and times for future meetings and conference calls so members could attempt to attend or participate. The GMSTF unanimously passed this motion.

Leta Mach announced that Sharee Koenig, Resident Relations Manager for Franklin Park has been appointed to the GMSTF and reiterated the concern raised by the GMSTF that there needs to be more involvement on the GMSTF by residents from Franklin Park.

David Whaples advised the GMSTF that he has received the site plans for the existing middle school, bus lot and new middle school but has not been able to conduct a full review of the plans. He advised that the PGCPD do not have a plan for bus lot space requirements but that in his preliminary opinion, he did not think that the entire south west 1969 wing would need to be demolished to accommodate the bus lot. David shared plans he had on hand to depict what he believes the space requirements for the bus lot will be.

David advised he will continue to review the plans and report back to the GMSTF at a future meeting.

Bea Rodgers advised the GMSTF of the conference call held with a representative from the Coalition for Community Schools. Council member Mach shared some of her thoughts regarding the information gathered during the conference call. Discussion included the idea that a Community School is a “strategy” that uses public schools as a hub to bring together community partners to address not only academic needs, but also social, emotional, and health needs of students and their families -- before, during and after school. With an integrated focus on academics, services, and opportunities that lead to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. It was suggested that we try to schedule a tour of the Carlin Springs Community Schools in Arlington for interested Task Force members as this program was highlighted as an excellent example of the community schools concept. It was agreed that Joe would attempt to arrange the tour and all will be notified as to date and time. Those available are to notify him.

There were numerous flip charts at the meeting listing all of the suggested possible uses for space at the middle school for the GMSTF to review, refine and edit. There were a number of additions to the existing list. There were also a few suggestions related to merging some of the uses.

At this point sub-committees were selected for division of tasks to identify additional information about the various areas. The following sub committees and members were appointed:

Site Plan Review – David Whaples

Technology – Keith Chernikoff, Barbara Simon, Theresa Bugg

Education – Natasha Jenkins, Brenda Cooley, Dan Hamlin, Janet Mirsky, Leta Mach

Community Outreach – Keith Chernikoff, Bea Rodgers, Ken Blue, Natasha Jenkins

Arts - Shane Wisdom, Barbara Simon, Gail Martineau (not a member of GMSTF)

Recreation – Ken Blue

Homelessness – Bea Rodgers

Sub committees were asked to hold meetings separate from the regular monthly meetings and report back to the full GMSTF as necessary. A form was developed by Bea Rodgers for each sub committee to use as a guide as they conducted research on specific topics. This form is intended to be used as a guide only. If sub committees feel it is useful to modify the provide format this is allowable. It was suggested that some be prepared to provide preliminary reports at the March meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Approved 3-10-11